

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 are pending, wherein Claims 1, 13, and 25 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 13, 16, 21, 24, and 25 have been amended to clarify the claim language with respect to the specification and drawings, and not in response to any claim rejection. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0156661 A1 to Jones et al. (“Jones”). This claim rejection is traversed.

As amended, independent Claim 1 recites a reservation system for making travel arrangements upon request by a user. The system comprises means for determining whether the user is a direct customer or a travel agent; means for receiving travel parameters associated with a desired travel option; means for generating a listing of one or more travel arrangements in accordance with the travel parameters, said listing including pricing information associated with each respective travel arrangement; and means for displaying the listing of the one or more travel arrangements. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 may be found, for example, at page 3, lines 26-27; page 4, lines 1-9; and page 5, lines 16-20 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added to Claim 1.

As amended, independent Claim 13 recites a method for making travel arrangements upon request by a user of a computer network. The method comprises the steps of determining whether the user is a direct customer or a travel agent; receiving travel parameters associated with a desired travel option; generating a listing of one or more travel

arrangements in accordance with the travel parameters, said listing including pricing information associated with each respective travel arrangement; and displaying the listing of the one or more travel arrangements. Support for the amendment to Claim 13 may be found, for example, at page 3, lines 26-27; page 4, lines 1-9; and page 5, lines 16-20 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added to Claim 13.

As amended, independent Claim 25 recites a reservation system for making travel arrangements upon request by a user. The system comprises a first data processing system for determining whether the user is a direct customer or a travel agent, receiving travel parameters associated with a desired travel option, generating a listing of one or more travel arrangements in accordance with the travel parameters, said listing including pricing information associated with each respective travel arrangement, and displaying the listing of the one or more travel arrangements; and at least one database for storing a plurality of the travel arrangements and the associated pricing information. Support for the amendment to Claim 25 may be found, for example, at page 3, lines 26-27; page 4, lines 1-9; and page 5, lines 16-20 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added to Claim 25.

Thus, each of the three independent Claims 1, 13, and 25 includes a recitation corresponding to the determination of whether the user is a direct customer or a travel agent. This feature provides the present invention with the advantage that the reservation system can tailor the information to be provided in the listing based on whether the user is a direct customer or a travel agent. In particular, this feature enables the reservation system to take into account whether or not an agency commission will be paid. In addition, there may be other travel parameters whose price or availability may depend on whether the user is a direct

customer or a travel agent. For example, there may be certain travel arrangements that are available only via travel agencies, such as certain cruises. As another example, there may be certain travel arrangements that will not afford an agency commission, so the pricing information provided to the user may be affected by whether or not the user is a travel agent.

By contrast, Jones does not disclose determining whether the user is a direct customer or a travel agent. Therefore, because each of independent Claims 1, 13, and 25 recite the feature of determining whether the user is a direct customer or a travel agent, and because Jones does not disclose this feature, Applicants submit that each of these claims is allowable over Jones. Furthermore, because each of Claims 2-12, 14-24, 26, and 27 depends from one of the aforementioned independent claims, these dependent claims are allowable over Jones, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims.

Dependent Claims 4 and 16 have been amended to recite that the listing includes information relating to whether children are allowed at the named accommodation. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, at page 4, lines 4-7 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

This feature provides the present invention with the advantage that a user can determine whether or not a selected resort allows children. This is important information in many instances. For example, a user may wish to bring the entire family, including children, along on a vacation. As another example, a user may prefer an adults-only resort.

By contrast, Jones does not disclose the feature of the listing providing information relating to whether children are allowed at the named accommodation. Therefore, because each of Claims 4 and 16 recite the feature of the listing providing information relating to whether children are allowed at the named accommodation, and because Jones does not

disclose this feature, Applicants submit that each of these claims is allowable over Jones.

Dependent Claims 9 and 21 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

No new matter has been added.

Dependent Claims 12 and 24 have been amended to recite that the confirmed travel arrangement includes information relating to a net amount of money due from the user, wherein when the user is a travel agent, the net amount of money due is reduced by an amount of an agency commission. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 4, lines 21-25 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

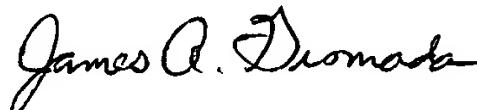
This feature provides the present invention with the advantage that the system is able to inform the user of the correct amount of money that is due at the same time as a confirmation for a travel arrangement is provided. Users are always interested in knowing how much money is owed. This feature enables the system to take the agency commission into account and thereby provide an accurate amount due to the user.

By contrast, Jones does not disclose the feature of the confirmed travel arrangement including information relating to a net amount of money due from the user, wherein when the user is a travel agent, the net amount of money due is reduced by an amount of an agency commission. Therefore, because each of Claims 12 and 24 recite the feature of the confirmed travel arrangement including information relating to a net amount of money due from the user, wherein when the user is a travel agent, the net amount of money due is reduced by an amount of an agency commission, and because Jones does not disclose this feature, Applicants submit that each of these claims is allowable over Jones.

All of the rejections and objections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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